

April 8, 2026

Co-Chair Rep. Heintzeman  
Co-Chair Rep. Peter Fischer  
Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: Opposition to Minnesota House File 4740

Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association (MTGA), which represents turkey farmers across the state of Minnesota, I write in opposition to House File 4740.

Minnesota is the nation's leading turkey-producing state. The turkey industry is a cornerstone of many of the state's rural communities, providing over 50,000 jobs across the state. Our growers are committed to responsible environmental and financial stewardship. They operate under a comprehensive framework of state and federal regulations. Farms are routinely inspected and regulations enforced. HF 4740 expands regulatory authority for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and adds new layers of unnecessary complexity. While well-intended, the bill applies a one-size-fits-all approach that does not reflect how turkey operations function in practice.

Turkey manure is fundamentally different from other livestock systems. It is a dry, nutrient-dense product that is not stored in long-term on-farm storage. Instead, barns are cleaned out a few times per year, and manure is applied directly to crop fields during appropriate seasons when conditions allow at a significantly lower rate than liquid manure. It is not a waste product, but rather a valuable fertilizer, often with waiting lists from crop farmers who wish to purchase turkey litter as a nutrient source. Because of this, many of the requirements contemplated in HF 4740, particularly those modeled after liquid manure storage and handling, do not align with turkey production. Imposing those requirements creates unnecessary and impractical burdens without improving intended outcomes.

If enacted, HF 4740 would add regulatory complexity, increase costs, and increase uncertainty in permitting timelines. These impacts would fall directly on independent family farmers, placing an undue financial burden on operations for requirements that are not necessary given the way turkey manure is managed today.

MTGA supports practical policies that improve environmental outcomes while maintaining a viable agricultural sector. HF 4740 does not reflect that approach. We respectfully ask the Committee to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sincerely,



Ashley Kohls  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Turkey Growers Association